

BAMPTON, NORTH DEVON

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 REPORT 

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Year Ending 31st December, 1912

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FEBRUARY, 1913.

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"TIVERTON GAZETTE" PRINTING WORKS.



# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1912

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TO THE BAMPTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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GENTLEMEN,—

I have much pleasure in presenting my Report for the year 1912.

During 1912 32 births and 27 deaths were registered, giving an apparent increase of five in the population.

The birth-rate for the year is 14.01 per thousand of the population; this is below the average for the district, which for the last five years is 22.50.

The death-rate for 1912 is 10.82; this is below the average for the district, which for the last five years is 14.38. The average age at death is 61.

Of the 27 deaths registered in 1912, three were infants under one year. On classification—Pulmonary tuberculosis (non-resident), one; cancer, three; organic heart disease, seven; bronchitis, five; pneumonia, one; nephritis, one; old age and various causes, nine.

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INFANTILE MORTALITY.—There were three deaths under one year: one at 4 weeks, from acute bronchitis; one at 9 weeks, congestion of lungs; one at 7 months, from congenital malformation; giving an infant mortality rate of 93.7 per thousand births. This is rather above the average, which for the past five years has been 89.7 in this district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The district has been remarkably free from notifiable diseases. One case only was reported, viz., scarlet fever—a school contact case, three miles distant from the town. This was prevalent in an adjoining parish. The case was sent to the Tiverton Joint Isolation Hospital, and recovered.

The district is fortunate in not having had any case of cerebro-spinal fever or poliomyelitis, which has been prevalent in North Devon.

I am indebted to the vigilance of the school teachers in connection with the personal hygiene of the children.

TUBERCULOSIS PULMONARY.—Three cases have been under my supervision during 1912—one infant who has recovered, and two adults sent to the County Sanatorium.

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE DISTRICT.—The length from East to West is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles; from North to South is  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles. The population is estimated now at 1,570, and area 7,760 acres.

The rock formation is chiefly carboniferous limestone, overlaid by Culm shales towards the South, with red sandstone lying irregularly upon the Culm shales.

In the North-west the Devonian rocks occur.

Bampton is on gravel soil, situated on two streams, which unite close to the main street and join the river Exe about one-and-a-half miles from the town. With the exception of quarrymen employed at the limestone quarries close to the town, the people are solely engaged in agricultural pursuits.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING ACT, &c.—Rather more than one-half of the ~~centre~~ *entire* number of houses come under its provisions.

The number of houses is not sufficient for the population, although there have been no cases of overcrowding. Speaking generally, a large number of cottages are very antiquated and structurally deficient with low walls, small windows, and deficient ventilation. If these are closed, there are no available cottages, and the people have no homes. Not a single cottage has been built in the town or its precincts for the last five years.

63 house and premises have been inspected; alterations and improvements have been effected in 48; and the owners of houses are doing structural improvements, but a great deal yet remains to be done. The Council might profitably acquire land and build cottages in the precincts of the town.

WATER SUPPLY.—The present supply is absolutely insufficient for the requirements of the town. The town is supplied by a four-inch iron pipe, which brings the water from a spring about 500 yards west of the town, from a small reservoir of about 1,200 gallons.

The constant turning off water from one portion of the town to allow some houses to get a supply, is a public grievance.

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The western higher part of the town can only obtain water from a pump which draws from the main, a condition which must continue until a suitable storage is made at a higher level than the present tank.

The quality of the present water is excellent, having been frequently tested by me.

The augmentation of the present supply requires the prompt attention of the Council.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—The Council having been compelled to reconstruct the Sewerage and Sewage disposal of the town in order to prevent pollution of the Batherum, a tributary of the Exe, has adopted the scheme by which the sewage of the whole of the town will be dealt with, and treated by purification and filtration on a bacteriological basis. Two of the three sections are completed. The disposal works are in the course of erection, and the whole system will be completed by mid-summer next. The cost of the scheme is being paid directly from the rates.

THE PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.—Have been periodically inspected. The sanitary arrangements of the Shillingford School continue unsatisfactory, and the attention of the Education Authority has been called to this condition.

SCAVENGING.—Is carried out by the Council; scrapings and refuse are carted away to agricultural lands at a distance.

DISINFECTION.—Is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. The Tiverton Rural Council grant the use of their disinfecting apparatus by arrangement.

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There is no isolation hospital; arrangements have lately been made for cases to be admitted to the Tiverton Joint Isolation Hospital.

WORKSHOPS.—There are 13 registered, including three bakehouses. These have been inspected frequently. They are clean, well ventilated, and in good sanitary condition.

There are no outworkers.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are four, one is at present disused. All are frequently inspected and are satisfactory.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.—No milk is sent away from the district. These premises are also frequently inspected. No complaints have been reported.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—None.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—None.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—No action has been necessary during the year.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.—This is not adopted in this district.

ACTS AND BYE LAWS.—The Bye Laws made in 1892 are in force. The Model Building Bye Laws, as sent to the Council, were considered at a special meeting but not adopted. Parts II. and III. of the Public Health Amendment Act of 1890 are adopted.

**THOMAS W. WIDGER BOVEY,**

L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.,

February, 1913.

Medical Officer of Health.

